Current Status of the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically presetting and cutting a specimen with a microtome or ultramicrotome, the [[a]] specimen having a trimmed surface ~~with a microtome or ultramicrotome~~, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a microtome or ultramicrotome with a knife holder for a knife and a specimen holder for holding the specimen;

~~providing a knife holder for a knife and a specimen holder for holding the specimen,~~

using a feed device for producing a relative motion between the knife and the specimen; ~~,the specimen,~~

producing a trimmed surface of the specimen with a trimming apparatus having a trimming knife or a milling cutter;

ascertaining in the [[a]] trimming apparatus the spacing between the trimmed surface of the specimen and the specimen holder with a distance measurement system during the movement of the trimming knife or the milling cutter;[[,]] and,

transferring the spacing to the microtome or ultramicrotome via a data transfer means, prior to mounting the specimen with the specimen holder in the microtome or ultramicrotome. ~~cutting device, and~~

~~inserting the specimen holder into the cutting device.~~

2. (Cancelled) The method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the measurement of the spacing between the trimmed surface of the specimen and the specimen holder is sensed in a trimming device.

3. (Cancelled) The method as defined in Claim 2, wherein the spacing is sensed during the motion of a milling cutter.

4. (Original) The method as defined in Claim 1, wherein after trimming, the specimen is inserted together with the specimen holder into the ~~cutting device~~ microtome or ultramicrotome and the specimen holder abuts against a stop.

5. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in Claim 1[[3]], wherein the motion of the trimming knife or the milling cutter is sensed with a distance measuring system. ~~spindle drive, a stepping motor with step counter, and/or a servomotor.~~

6. (Original) The method as defined Claim 1, wherein the trimming apparatus and the ~~cutting device~~ microtome or ultramicrotome are coordinated with one another in a learning mode.

7. (Original) The method as defined in Claim 6, comprising the steps of:

- setting a defined spacing between the trimmed surface of the specimen and the knife in the ~~cutting device~~ microtome or ultramicrotome; and
- storing the defined spacing.

8. (Original) The method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the ~~cutting device~~ trimming knife or the milling cutter is equipped with a travel measurement system that has a zero mark; and the trimming knife or the milling cutter is moved to the zero mark ~~the zero mark is moved to~~ upon activation of the ~~cutting device~~ microtome or ultramicrotome.

9. (Withdrawn) A microtome or ultramicrotome for cutting a specimen, comprising: a knife holder for a knife and a specimen holder for holding the specimen, a feed device for producing a relative motion between the knife and the specimen and a travel measurement system for measuring the change in the spacing between the knife and the specimen holder.

10. (Withdrawn) The microtome or ultramicrotome as defined in Claim 9, wherein a device is provided for transmitting the spacing, ascertained in a trimming device, between a trimmed surface of the specimen and the specimen holder.

11. (Withdrawn) The microtome or ultramicrotome as defined Claim 9, wherein the travel measurement system encompasses a spindle drive, a stepping motor with step counter, and/or a servomotor.

12. (Withdrawn) The microtome or ultramicrotome as defined in Claim 11, wherein a zero position can be stored in the travel measurement system.

13. (Withdrawn) The microtome or ultramicrotome as defined in Claim 11, wherein microtome or ultramicrotome is embodied in such a way that the zero position can be moved to upon activation of the cutting apparatus.

14. (Withdrawn) A system for automatically presetting a specimen onto a knife in a microtome or ultramicrotome, the system comprising: a travel measurement system for measuring the change in the spacing between the knife and the specimen holder, a device for transmitting the distance, ascertained in a trimming device, between a trimmed surface of the specimen and the specimen holder, and the trimming device is coupled to the cutting device in such a way that the spacing ascertained in the trimming device is transmitted to the microtome or ultramicrotome.

15. (Withdrawn) The system for automatically presetting a specimen as defined in Claim 14, wherein the microtome or ultramicrotome and the trimming device are connected with a data line or wirelessly.

16. (Withdrawn) The system for automatically presetting a specimen as defined in Claim 14, wherein the trimming device and the cutting device move to a zero position upon activation.